



## PRESS RELEASE

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### “Don’t Be Tempted!”

Storm water management ponds do not make good skating rinks. Rochester’s climate does not consistently support safe ice thicknesses in these ponds.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources advises people to stay off any water body that has ice less than 2 inches thick. It takes 4 inches of new clear ice to support foot travel. These thicknesses are merely guidelines for new, clear, solid ice. **Running water and ice formed under freeze/thaw cycles can be unsafe even when it reaches the recommended thicknesses.**

Before crossing ice, test it to learn if it meets these minimum ice thicknesses. You can test the thickness of ice, progressing from shallow near-shore areas outward, using an ice chisel, ice auger, or even a cordless 1/4 inch drill with a long bit. The DNR recommends that you wear a life vest under your winter gear, *except* while traveling across ice in an enclosed vehicle.

There are over 300 public and private storm water management ponds of varying depth scattered throughout Rochester. Because of their unique purpose, location, and construction, they are not intended to be used for recreational purposes.

Weather permitting, the Rochester Park and Recreation Department maintains outdoor ice rinks beginning in late December. At that time, go on-line to find locations of rinks and warming sheds at [http://www.rochestermn.gov/departments/park/activities/winter/Outdoor\\_icerinks.asp](http://www.rochestermn.gov/departments/park/activities/winter/Outdoor_icerinks.asp).



*Photo courtesy Minnesota Department of Natural Resources*

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